

IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
FOR THE MIDDLE DISTRICT OF PENNSYLVANIA

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

v.

JAMES HALLOWAY,

Defendant

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Case 00-CR-162-01

**FILED**  
HARRISBURG, PA

TRANSCRIPT OF PROCEEDINGS

MAY 12 2003

GUILTY PLEA

MARY E. D'ANDREA, CLERK

Per

*[Signature]*  
Deputy Clerk

BEFORE: HON. SYLVIA H. RAMBO, Judge

DATE: September 8, 2000

PLACE: Courtroom Number Three  
Federal Building  
Harrisburg, Pennsylvania

COUNSEL PRESENT:

WILLIAM BEHE, Assistant United States Attorney  
For - United States of America

FRANK ARCURI, Esquire  
For - Defendant

Vicki L. Fox, RMR  
Official Reporter

Halloway - Guilty Plea

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1 MR. BEHE: Your Honor, this next matter is that  
2 of United States of America versus James Halloway which is  
3 at Criminal Number 000-162.

4 May the record reflect that Mr. Halloway is  
5 present before you along with his counsel Mr. Arcuri.

6 He is here pursuant to a plea agreement that was  
7 filed on August 16th of this year which calls for  
8 Mr. Halloway to withdraw his plea of not guilty as to Count  
9 III of the indictment which charges a conspiracy to  
10 distribute one hundred kilograms or more of marijuana.

11 He is here to enter a plea of guilty to that  
12 charge.

13 THE COURT: Mr. Halloway, before I can accept  
14 your change of plea, it will be necessary for me to  
15 establish for the record that you understand your rights and  
16 the consequences of your plea.

17 You will be placed under oath, and I will ask  
18 certain questions of you. You should be advised that if you  
19 give me any false answers, you could be subject to further  
20 prosecution for perjury or false swearing; do you understand  
21 that?

22 THE DEFENDANT: Yes, ma'am.

23 THE COURT: Do you further understand that if you  
24 went to trial in this matter, you could not be forced to  
25 take the witness stand to testify against yourself.

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1 But because you are entering a plea of guilty to  
2 Count III of this indictment, I must establish your  
3 involvement in that charge. I will ask questions of you to  
4 which you must respond; thereby, giving up your right  
5 against self-incrimination. Do you understand that?

6 THE DEFENDANT: Yes, ma'am.

7  
8 JAMES HALLOWAY, called as a witness, being duly  
9 sworn, testified as follows:

10  
11 BY THE COURT:

12 Q How old are you?

13 A 30.

14 Q How far have you gone in school?

15 A Twelfth grade.

16 Q Do you fully read and write English?

17 A Yes, ma'am.

18 Q Have you taken any drugs or alcohol before coming into  
19 court today?

20 A No, ma'am.

21 Q Are you undergoing any psychological or psychiatric  
22 counseling of any kind?

23 A No, ma'am.

24 THE COURT: Mr. Arcuri, are you court-appointed?

25 MR. ARCURI: I am court-appointed, Your Honor.

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1 BY THE COURT:

2 Q You have been represented by Mr. Arcuri in this  
3 matter. Are you satisfied with the representation you have  
4 received from him to date?

5 A Yes, ma'am.

6 Q Now, Mr. Halloway, you are entitled to a jury trial in  
7 this matter in which you through counsel would select a jury  
8 consisting of twelve people.

9 At a trial, you would have the right through  
10 counsel to cross-examine any witnesses the government would  
11 present. You, in turn, would have the right to subpoena  
12 witnesses and evidence on your own behalf; although, you are  
13 not required to do so.

14 Any finding of guilt by a jury would have to be  
15 unanimous. That is all twelve jurors would have to agree.  
16 If you give up your right to a jury trial, you give up your  
17 right to present any defenses that you may have or the right  
18 to appeal any pretrial motions.

19 Do you understand your right to a jury trial?

20 A Yes, ma'am.

21 Q Is it your desire to give up your right to a jury  
22 trial and enter a plea of guilty to Count III?

23 A Yes, ma'am.

24 Q Are you sure? You had some hesitation when you looked  
25 at counsel.

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1 A I wasn't sure what you were saying.

2 Q I am asking you if you wish to enter a plea of guilty  
3 to Count III of the indictment?

4 A Yes, ma'am.

5 THE COURT: There is a plea agreement in this  
6 matter. Mr. Behe, will you please state the essence of the  
7 plea agreement?

8 MR. BEHE: Yes, Your Honor. This plea agreement  
9 calls for Mr. Halloway to withdraw his plea of not guilty as  
10 to Count III and enter a plea of guilty to that count.

11 In exchange for doing so, the United States  
12 agrees that at the time of sentencing to move for the  
13 dismissal of all of the counts in the indictment.

14 The United States has also agreed that if  
15 Mr. Halloway can demonstrate that he has accepted  
16 responsibility to the satisfaction of the Probation Office  
17 and the United States Attorney's Office, then we would  
18 recommend to the Court that he receive a two level reduction  
19 in his offense level.

20 Mr. Halloway understands, however, that that is  
21 entirely up to the Court, whether he is entitled to any  
22 reduction, and that if the Court determines he is not  
23 entitled to a two level reduction, that would not be a basis  
24 for him to withdraw his plea of guilty as to Count III.

25 Mr. Halloway has also agreed to cooperate with

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1 the United States. The United States has agreed that if  
2 Mr. Halloway's cooperation amounts to what is referred to as  
3 substantial assistance, then the United States would be in a  
4 position to file a motion to further reduce his sentence  
5 pursuant to Section 5K1.1 of the Sentencing Guidelines.

6 As with the acceptance of responsibility  
7 provision, Mr. Halloway understands that even if the United  
8 States should file a motion pursuant to Section 5K1.1 of the  
9 guidelines, the granting of that motion is entirely up to  
10 the discretion of the Court. And even if the Court would  
11 grant that motion, the amount of reduction, if any, is also  
12 entirely up to the discretion of the Court. And  
13 Mr. Halloway will not have a basis to withdraw his plea of  
14 guilty should Your Honor number, one, not grant that motion  
15 at all, or two, with Your Honor granting the motion not  
16 depart to a level to which he would be satisfied.

17 I believe that is essentially the terms of the  
18 plea agreement.

19 BY THE COURT:

20 Q Is that your understanding of the plea agreement?

21 A Yes.

22 Q Have there been any promises made to you that haven't  
23 been set forth in writing in the plea agreement?

24 A No, ma'am.

25 Q Has anyone you know promised you what your sentence

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1 would be?

2 A No, ma'am.

3 Q In that regard, do you understand that the maximum  
4 penalty for this offense would be imprisonment of up to  
5 forty years, a fine of two million dollars, or both, a term  
6 of supervised release, costs of prosecution, denial of  
7 certain federal benefits and an assessment of one hundred  
8 dollars; do you understand that?

9 A Yes, ma'am.

10 Q Do you further understand that Count III carries a  
11 mandatory minimum term of imprisonment of five years?

12 A Yes, ma'am.

13 Q Do you further understand that there are Sentencing  
14 Guidelines which this Court must follow, that I cannot  
15 depart from those Guidelines except under special  
16 circumstances, and one of those could be if the government  
17 files a petition for downward departure; do you understand  
18 that?

19 A Yes, ma'am.

20 Q Has anyone estimated what your guideline sentence  
21 would be?

22 A No, ma'am.

23 Q Do you understand that we will not know what your  
24 guideline will be until after the presentence report is  
25 concluded? And if the guideline that I find applies to you

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1 is dissatisfied by you, you cannot withdraw your guilty  
2 plea; do you understand that?

3 A Yes, ma'am.

4 Q I show you a document entitled Plea Agreement and ask  
5 if you have reviewed that with Mr. Arcuri? Is that your  
6 signature?

7 A Yes, ma'am.

8 Q Have you, yourself, reviewed that, or has it been read  
9 to you by Mr. Arcuri?

10 A I read it myself.

11 Q Do you have any questions of me concerning anything in  
12 that document?

13 A (No response.)

14 Q Is there anything in there that you may not understand  
15 that you need clarified by me?

16 A I fully understand, Your Honor.

17 Q You are charged in Count III on or about March '97 up  
18 until September of '97 in Harrisburg of conspiring with  
19 others to manufacture and distribute and possess to  
20 distribute in excess of a hundred kilos of marijuana.

21 Mr. Behe, would you state for the record the  
22 facts in support of this charge?

23 MR. BEHE: Yes, Your Honor. Had this matter  
24 proceeded to trial, the evidence would have established that  
25 Mr. Halloway who was a Harrisburg resident distributed in



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1 excess of a hundred kilograms of marijuana between March and  
2 I believe perhaps even up to November of 1997; although, the  
3 count of the indictment says on or about -- ends at  
4 September 11th, 1997.

5 The information about Mr. Halloway was developed  
6 through a confidential informant who was working for the  
7 Office of Attorney General's Bureau of Narcotics  
8 Investigation and who made several purchases of marijuana  
9 from Mr. Halloway.

10 Numerous conversations between this confidential  
11 informant and Mr. Halloway were recorded. The source of the  
12 marijuana in California has already entered a plea of guilty  
13 and was prepared to testify against Mr. Halloway, as was the  
14 confidential informant.

15 The BNI agents recovered multiple Western Union  
16 wire transfers of money from Mr. Halloway to the source.  
17 And finally, Mr. Halloway's house was searched pursuant to a  
18 search warrant. And Mr. Halloway was observed throwing a  
19 box with approximately eight pounds of marijuana out of the  
20 bedroom window.

21 Two loaded handguns were recovered from under the  
22 mattress on the bed where Mr. Halloway was sitting.  
23 Mr. Halloway in ~~convicted~~ told the investigators where the guns  
24 were located.

25 So essentially the testimony would be from

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1 coconspirators, a confidential informant, evidence gathered  
2 by way of a search warrant, tape recorded conversations and  
3 controlled purchases of marijuana from Mr. Halloway.

4 In that regard, I think it important as part of  
5 the plea agreement, and what Your Honor had noted as well to  
6 Mr. Halloway, that he was surrendering his right to file any  
7 pretrial motions in this matter.

8 The case had been before the Court of Common  
9 Pleas where certain pretrial motions seeking to suppress  
10 some of the tape recorded conversations were filed and were  
11 successful based on state law that required a State Court  
12 Judge to approve the recording, even consensual recordings,  
13 if it happened to be within the home of the particular  
14 individual.

15 As a result of those rulings, the United States  
16 Attorney's Office adopted the case and the prosecution.  
17 Mr. Halloway has not filed any motions here in Federal  
18 Court, but I think it is important to note that that is not  
19 federal law and that would not have provided a basis for  
20 Mr. Halloway to suppress those.

21 Nonetheless, I want to make sure he understood he  
22 had the right to file those motions. Do you understand by  
23 pleading guilty, you give up that right to file a motion  
24 challenging those recordings; is that true?

25 THE DEFENDANT: Yes.

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1 THE COURT: As well as the search of the house.  
2 If you had any question concerning the legality of the  
3 search of your home, you could have also filed a motion to  
4 suppress. You understand you are giving up that right,  
5 also?

6 THE DEFENDANT: In the federal system?

7 THE COURT: Yes, sir.

8 THE DEFENDANT: Yes, ma'am.

9 THE COURT: What took so long? This is two years  
10 later.

11 MR. BEHE: Four. It worked its way through the  
12 State Court system with a number of trial continuances. At  
13 one point, Mr. Halloway moved to discharge his counsel. I  
14 think it was Mr. Russo.

15 THE DEFENDANT: Yes, sir.

16 MR. BEHE: He was allowed out of the case.  
17 Another attorney got in. There were a number of delays  
18 along those lines. As the case developed, additional  
19 individuals were arrested and cooperated. It just kept  
20 moving back.

21 It wasn't until recently with the decision of  
22 Judge Turgeon that we were even approached about becoming  
23 involved in the case.

24 THE COURT: Is there a disagreement over the one  
25 hundred kilograms?

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1 MR. ARCURI: None that I have from my client.

2 Your Honor, he has agreed with that.

3 BY THE COURT:

4 Q Mr. Halloway, did you beginning in March of '97  
5 through at least September of '97 conspire with others, in  
6 particular Lipton Gordon, Robert Campbell and Chad Smith and  
7 others to manufacture, distribute and possess with the  
8 intent to distribute in excess of one hundred kilograms of  
9 marijuana?

10 A Yes, ma'am.

11 Q Do you have any question about these charges?

12 A I am curious about just the amount. I am just curious  
13 where the numbers came from.

14 Q You are entitled before sentencing to have a hearing  
15 to establish the amount.

16 A I don't know about the Robert Campbell guy. I am  
17 familiar with the rest.

18 Q You are familiar with Lipton Gordon and Chad Smith?

19 A Yes, ma'am.

20 Q Do you understand in a conspiracy that you could still  
21 be guilty of a conspiracy even though you don't know all the  
22 members of the conspiracy?

23 A Yes, ma'am.

24 Q Do you understand that a conspiracy is an agreement  
25 among two or more persons to do an illegal act?

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1 A Yes, ma'am.

2 Q The illegal act is the distribution of the marijuana;  
3 do you understand?

4 A Yes, ma'am.

5 Q Do you have any other questions about the charge?

6 A That would be all.

7 THE COURT: AND NOW this eighth day of September,  
8 2000, the Court finds that the defendant is acting  
9 voluntarily and not as a result of force or threats or  
10 promises apart from the plea agreement, that he understands  
11 his rights, the consequences of his plea and voluntarily  
12 waives his right to trial.

13 The Court is satisfied that the plea has a basis  
14 in fact and contains all of the elements of the crime  
15 charged. The Court therefore permits the revocation of the  
16 not guilty plea, accepts the plea of guilty to Count III in  
17 the indictment and directs the entry of judgement of guilty  
18 on the plea.

19 Sentencing is deferred pending receipt by the  
20 Court of a presentence report.

21 MR. BEHE: Your Honor, I would like to state on  
22 the record some concern I have to Mr. Halloway's statement  
23 about the amount.

24 Since the United States Supreme Court's decision  
25 in Apprendi, we have to establish at trial the amount proved

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1 beyond a reasonable doubt. But at a guilty plea proceeding,  
2 normally the amount is agreed upon so that the defendant is  
3 admitting to a particular amount or a particular range.

4 In this matter, a hundred kilograms is a little  
5 more than two hundred pounds that was distributed or a part  
6 of the conspiracy over that period of time that involved you  
7 and other individuals. Other individuals distributed some,  
8 and you distributed some, and you are all part of the  
9 conspiracy. You are all responsible for that total amount.  
10 Do you understand that?

11 THE DEFENDANT: Everybody?

12 MR. BEHE: Yes, everybody. What everybody is  
13 doing. Do you understand that?

14 THE DEFENDANT: Yes.

15 MR. BEHE: What the information charged here was  
16 that the conspiracy involved more than a hundred kilograms,  
17 which is somewhat over two hundred pounds. Do you admit  
18 that that was the amount that was involved in part of  
19 conspiracy, at least that amount?

20 THE DEFENDANT: I would say less. But the agent  
21 I spoke to before, he said that the way the feds do it, they  
22 talked to a couple of people I guess like you just said, and  
23 whatever Rambo figures, that is what they use in the federal  
24 system. It is different than the state.

25 MR. BEHE: What I would expect I would be able to

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1 prove at the time of sentencing would be that you  
2 distributed more than one hundred kilograms, but less than a  
3 thousand kilograms. It would be like in the five, six  
4 hundred pound range. Not you personally --

5 THE DEFENDANT: I understand.

6 MR. BEHE: -- but all those involved in the  
7 conspiracy. Do you agree to the amount being more than one  
8 hundred kilograms of marijuana that was involved in the  
9 conspiracy?

10 THE DEFENDANT: I am not sure what those guys,  
11 exactly what they dealt with. Just me. I understand what  
12 you mean.

13 MR. BEHE: I know you might understand. Do you  
14 agree it was more than a hundred kilograms?

15 THE DEFENDANT: Yes, sir.

16 MR. BEHE: That takes care of my concern.

17 THE COURT: Okay.

18 MR. ARCURI: Your Honor, for the record, what I  
19 explained to him was the involvement of the other people,  
20 the allegations, not that he personally distributed that  
21 amount, but the entire conspiracy could be proven by all of  
22 the facts that Mr. Behe could present. And he has in fact  
23 told me that that is --

24 BY THE COURT:

25 Q You knew there were other people involved in this

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1 conspiracy to distributing marijuana?

2 A Yes.

3 Q Besides yourself?

4 A Yes, ma'am.

5 THE COURT: Court is in recess.

6 THE CLERK: Court is in recess.

7 (Whereupon, the proceedings were concluded.)

8

9

10 I hereby certify that the proceedings and  
11 evidence are contained fully and accurately in the notes  
12 taken by me on the trial of the above cause, and that this  
13 copy is a correct transcript of the same.

14

15

Vicki L. Fox RMR

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Vicki L. Fox, RMR

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Official Reporter

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